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AUTHOR Mei, Dolores M.
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ABSTRACT

This report is a dissemination project evaluation of the Wildlife Inquiry through Zoo Education (WIZE) program, a well-known life science program for grades seven through ten that takes a non-traditional, multi-disciplinary approach to learning. The program content focuses on population ecology, wildlife conservation, and species survival. Chapter I presents program background, objectives, and evaluation methodology. Information pertaining to awareness sessions, training, and the number of program adoptions can be found in Chapter II. Data relating specifically to assessments of specific WIZE/Survival Strategies curriculum materials, examination of teachers' experiences on field trips to zoos or alternate life science sites appears in Chapter III. Student performance on the content-area test as well as ratings of students' mastery of science skills and knowledge are contained in Chapter IV. A summary of the perceptions of a subgroup of teachers who have used WIZE/Survival Strategies extensively appears in Chapter V. Conclusions are presented in Chapter VI. Findings indicate that students participating in the program scored significantly higher on a content-area posttest and had significantly more knowledge of and interest in particular science areas than did students not exposed to the curriculum. (JRH)

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